

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a soluble polyfunctional vinylaromatic copolymer improved in heat resistance, resistance to thermal decomposition, solvent solubility, and processability. The soluble polyfunctional vinylaromatic polymer is obtained by cationically polymerizing, at a temperature of 20 to 120°C, one or more monomer ingredients including 20 to 100 mol% divinylaromatic compound (a) in the presence of a donor ingredient, e.g., a quaternary ammonium salt, with the aid of a Lewis acid catalyst and an initiator represented by the following general formula (1)



wherein  $R^1$  represents hydrogen or a monovalent C<sub>1-6</sub> hydrocarbon group;  $R^2$  represents an aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a valence of  $p$ ;  $Z$  represents halogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy or acyloxy; and  $p$  is an integer of 1 to 6; provided that when two or more  $R^1$ 's and  $Z$ 's are present per molecule, they may be identical to different from each other.